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The situation in the Middle East

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Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 30 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my previous letters on the same subject, I have the honour to convey to you hereunder a list of the violations and infringements that were committed by Israel against Lebanon in the period from 9 to 18 April 2001. Lebanon regards these incidents as an extension of Israel's aggression against its people and territory and as being in flagrant violation of international law.

9 April 2001

Between 1000 and 1130 hours an Israeli Poclain-type bulldozer was engaged in earthmoving and fortification work at the Ruwaysat al-Alam outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Between 1200 and 1245 hours there were five unexplained explosions in the part of the occupied Shab'a farmlands towards the occupied territories.

10 April 2001

Between 1110 and 1140 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, Mount Lebanon, the Bekaa and the North at very high altitudes, breaking the sound barrier.

Between 1850 and 1910 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Radar outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

At 1900 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Ramta hill outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands fired two 120-mm mortar rounds at surrounding areas.

At 1925 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Ruwaysat al-Alam outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

Between 1940 and 2000 hours an Israeli helicopter flew over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

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Between 2220 and 2245 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Between 1320 and 1330 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Radar outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas. There was also an explosion in the vicinity of the same outpost.

12 April 2001

At 1100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Bint Jubayl area at high altitudes.

Between 1100 and 1230 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes.

At 1810 hours an Israeli gunboat (hull number 814) penetrated some 400 metres inside Lebanese territorial waters off Ra's al-Naqurah. It was accompanied by a rubber dingy with three Israeli soldiers on board, and it remained some 50 metres from the shore. At 1840 hours they both left in the direction of the territorial waters of occupied Palestine. In connection with the foregoing, at 1810 hours a body had been seen tossing about in the sea and being carried towards the Lebanese shore off Ra's al-Naqurah by the waves. The aforementioned rubber dingy approached and took the body on board. It transpired that the body was that of an Israeli fisherman and that they had found it at the boundary between Lebanese territorial waters and those of occupied Palestine (Ra's al-Abyad locality).

13 April 2001

Between 1600 and 1610 hours Israeli forces strafed the area around the Ramta hill outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands with medium-weapons fire.

At 1210 hours Israeli forces strafed the area around the Radar outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands with automatic-weapons fire.

At 1255 hours Israeli forces at one of the outposts in the occupied Shab'a farmlands fired a direct-fire round that impacted in the vicinity of Birkat al-Naqqar opposite the town of Kafr Shuba in the liberated territories.

14 April 2001

Between 0000 and 0010 hours Israeli forces at the Radar outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands launched two illumination flares and fired four 120-mm mortar rounds that impacted in the Shahal locality opposite Shab'a towards the liberated territories.

At 0015 hours Israeli forces strafed the area around the Radar outpost with medium-weapons fire.

At 1322 hours the radar installation at Beirut International Airport informed the air intelligence branch that two enemy "targets" were circling over the Western Bekaa and Ba'labakk area. They left Lebanese airspace at 1515 hours without incident.

Between 1420 and 1500 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Summaqah, Ruwaysat al-Alam and Radar outposts in the occupied Shab'a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas. They also fired

several 155-mm artillery shells and 120-mm mortar rounds at the Birkat Ba'tha'il vicinity, the outskirts of Mazra'at Bistra, Birkat al-Naqqar and the Riba' al-Tin area in the liberated Lebanese territories from their positions at Zibdin and Ayn al-Tinah inside the occupied territories. Two Israeli helicopters also flew over the same outposts in the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Between 1550 and 1600 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the road between Naqqar Shab'a and Kafr Shuba in the liberated Lebanese territories, firing two air-to-surface missiles.

15 April 2001

At 1120 hours one of the Israeli enemy troops posted opposite the Lebanese border inside the occupied territories fired one light-weapons round into the air in order to panic the Lebanese citizens on the Lebanese side of the Fatimah gate.

Between 1100 and 1600 hours a bulldozer belonging to the Israeli enemy forces was engaged in excavation work inside the occupied territories along the Lebanese border south of Ghajar with the assistance of an Israeli patrol consisting of three M-113 armoured personnel carriers. The patrol subsequently left with the bulldozer in the direction of the occupied territories in northern Palestine.

At 1515 hours one of the Israeli enemy soldiers posted at the Abbad position opposite outlying areas of Hula fired several light-weapons rounds into the air in order to cause panic.

At 1610 hours a slow-moving enemy "target" violated Lebanese airspace west of Damur, circling between Khaldah and Damur on a course that took it 5 nautical miles out to sea and 2 inland and leaving Lebanese airspace at 1903 hours.

16 April 2001

Between 0920 and 0950 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes, breaking the sound barrier in the Tyre area.

Between 1125 and 1320 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, the Bekaa, the North and Mount Lebanon breaking the sound barrier and releasing heat balloons in the Jazzin area and off Batrun.

Between 1500 and 1505 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Lebanese territorial waters off Tyre at very high altitudes.

Between 1825 and 1925 hours Israeli forces at the Ramta hill and Mazra'at Fashkul outposts in the occupied Shab'a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

17 April 2001

At intervals between 0900 and 1215 hours Israeli warplanes overflew all parts of Lebanon at very high altitudes. An Israeli reconnaissance aircraft also flew over the Shab'a farmlands.

Between 1445 and 1505 hours Israeli warplanes circled over the sea 7 nautical miles off Shikka at very high altitudes before heading south at a distance of some 2 nautical miles from the Lebanese coast.

18 April 2001

Between 0850 and 0900 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes.

Between 0940 and 0955 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, Mount Lebanon and the North at very high altitudes.

At 0750 hours overflights by Israeli warplanes were reported in the Arqub area.

At 0940 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South as far as the occupied Shab`a farmlands and Bint Jubayl as well as coastal areas of Iqlim al-Kharrub.

At 0910 hours Israeli enemy warplanes flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands as far as the liberated village of Mazra`at al-Majidiyah.

At 1005 hours Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the Marj Uyun area at moderate altitude.

At 1200 hours a number of medium-weapons rounds were heard being fired from the Ruwaysat al-Alam outpost in the occupied Shab`a farmlands and enemy reconnaissance aircraft also overflew the area.

At intervals between 1215 and 1900 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the Jazzin area and the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

At 1500 hours the outskirts of Shab`a town received bursts of fire from inside the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

At 2010 hours an Israeli enemy gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched an illumination flare over the area.

At 2230 hours vehicles were heard on the move near Birkat al-Naqqar in the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

At 2300 hours an Israeli enemy gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched an illumination flare over the surrounding area.

Like the previous Israeli violations of which it represents a continuation, this latest series is in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of Lebanon's sovereignty and poses a threat to stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative